



**STATEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS FOR THE
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
SYBIL BRAND COMMISSION FOR INSTITUTIONAL
INSPECTIONS
KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION
500 WEST TEMPLE STREET, ROOM 372
LOS ANGELES, CA 90012
<http://sbc.lacounty.gov>**

Wednesday, June 12, 2013

10:00 AM

AUDIO LINK FOR THE ENTIRE MEETING. (13-2884)

Attachments: [AUDIO](#)

Present: Eleanor R. Montaña, Vice Chairperson Frank S. Bacio,
Commissioner Barbara Bigby, Commissioner Cheryl Grills Ph.D.,
Commissioner Anne S. Hill and Commissioner Donald S.
Andrews

Absent: Commissioner Susan Burton

Call to Order. (13-2735)

Chairperson Montaña called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

Chairperson Montaña led in the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by a moment of silence.

I. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

1. Approval of the June 5, 2013 Minutes. (13-2736)

On motion of Commissioner Anne Hill, seconded by Commissioner Barbara Bigby and unanimously carried, the minutes of June 5, 2013 were approved.

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

II. DISCUSSION

2. Update on the 2013 scholarship awards presentation. (13-0800)

Chairperson Montano inquired about the status of the preparations for the scholarship presentation breakfast and the Board presentation on

June 18, 2013. Ms. Bolaji Famuyiwa, Staff, Commission Services, reported the scroll language, the Supervisor's talking points and the attendance list have been submitted to the Second District.

All other preparations, such as room arrangement, food, etcetera have been confirmed. She further reported that Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas will be attending with one or two staff plus the photographer, and he will be speaking at 8:50 a.m.

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

- 3. Review and recommendation to approve the 2011 and 2012 Sybil Brand Commission annual reports. (Continued from meeting of June 5, 2013) (13-2597)**

The Commission reviewed the 2011 and 2012 Annual Reports. Without objection, on motion of Commissioner Donald Andrews, seconded by Commissioner Barbara Bigby, the 2011 and 2012 Annual Reports were approved.

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)
[SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

III. REPORTS

- 4. Chairperson's Report on various items for June 12, 2013. (13-2737)**

Chairperson Montaña reported that the 44th Annual Los Angeles County Peace Officers' Memorial program that was attended by the Chairperson Montaña, Commissioner Andrews and Commissioner Grills, on May 29, 2013 in Whittier, California, was a success. Commissioner Andrews also added that this was his first time attending the event and it was very impressive and the museum was terrific.

Chairperson Montaña also reported that she and Commissioner Grills attended the Group Home Forum meeting that was held on June 7, 2013, on Shatto Place in Los Angeles, CA, which was also very informative.

Chairperson Montaña shared the following Newspaper Articles:

- **Los Angeles Times:**
 - **Suit alleges inmate was hidden (April 27, 2013)**
 - **A little more light on the jails (May 9, 2013)**
 - **A possibly costly custody delay (May 29, 2013)**
 - **L.A. County auditors investigating group home (May 29, 2013)**

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- **Children's welfare demands that the incompetence stop (June 8, 2013)**
 - **No vote on foster agency (May 25, 2013)**
 - **Lacy considers prosecuting foster agency (June 8, 2013)**
 - **Daily Breeze:**
 - **City's lack of foster families prompts action (May 26, 2013)**

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

5. Treasurer's Report for June 12, 2013. (13-2738)

Vice Chairperson Frank S. Bacio reported that he made a deposit on June 5, 2013 and that the current bank statement balance of the Commission's Charitable Fund is \$1390.96.

6. Staff Report on Correspondence Received and Department Representative Reports for June 12, 2013. (13-2739)

Ms. Famuyiwa announced that the Commission received an invitation to attend the System Improvement Plan (SIP) Annual Stakeholder Meeting scheduled to be held on Wednesday, June 26, 2013 at the Radisson Hotel Los Angeles Midtown at USC. She indicated that the Commission participated in the meeting in the past. Chair Montano stated that the Commission will not be able to attend due to its regular meeting scheduled for the same day. After a brief discussion on whether or not the Commission should attend and or send a representative to the SIP Annual Stakeholder's Meeting, Commissioner Andrews recommended that since the Commission's participation in the meeting is primarily to make improvement recommendations to the Probation and the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS); attending the Stakeholders meeting may not be necessary because the Commission's monthly business meeting serves as a better forum to make those kinds of recommendations.

Commissioner Grills stated that although she concurs with Commissioner Andrews' point that the improvement recommendations may be better communicated at the Commission's monthly business meeting, she noted that the stakeholder meeting will give the Commission an opportunity to hear what the other stakeholders are experiencing, which could provide a better understanding of what the Commissioners are encountering during their inspections. She recommended that it would be beneficial for the Commission to send a representative to hear what the other stakeholders

have to say and/or recommend, as well as, what the Probation and DCFS responses would be.

Commissioner Hill concurred to both recommendations of Commissioners Andrews and Grills and inquired as to who will be available to attend the stakeholders' meeting to represent the Commission. Commissioner Grills offered to attend the Stakeholder's meeting to represent the Commission.

Chairperson Montano stated that if a Commissioner is absent for three or more consecutive meetings, the absences must be excused. Commissioner Andrews raised an inquiry regarding the policy on absences, indicating that this may be the third week that Commissioner Burton had been absent from the regular Commission's meetings. He further inquired from staff if Commissioner Burton's absences were excused and for legitimate reasons. Staff responded that Commissioner Burton was present at the May 22, 2013 meeting, where she advised that she will not be available to attend the Group Home Forum. The May 29, 2013 meeting was canceled, and Commissioner Burton sent an email to staff on May 31, 2013 advising that she will not be available to attend the June 5, 2013 meeting; this information was communicated to Chairperson Montano.

As far as whether or not Commissioner Burton's reasons for her absences were legitimate, staff responded that they do not ask the Commissioners the reasons for their absences. Staff is only responsible for notifying the Chairperson of a Commissioner's request to be excused from a meeting and also maintain the meeting attendance records, which is submitted to the Supervisors monthly/quarterly. Staff further indicated that a review of the Commission's Bylaws may provide clarity as to whether or not the Commissioners are required to state the reasons for their absences. Commissioner Andrews then stated that he is raising the issue because he was advised before his appointment that it is imperative that the appointee (Commissioner) participates and commit to the responsibilities of the Commission. He then recommended that the Commission examine its policy/bylaws on absences. Commissioner Hill added that there was nothing in the bylaws that states that an action should be taken if a Commissioner incurs three (3) consecutive unexcused absences.

A review of the bylaws revealed that Article VII Section 2: Reporting Absences state "Commissioners shall contact the Chairperson to report

meeting absences, and in the absence of the Chair to contact staff, with the understanding that staff is letting the body know who is attending the meeting, but the Commission is not making staff accountable for approving/excusing absences.”

7. Review of Group Home Compliance Monitoring Audit Reports presented on June 12, 2013. (13-2740)

There were no monitoring audit reports given.

8. Commissioners Reports on Group Home and/or Detention Facilities Inspections from June 6, 2013 to June 11, 2013. (13-2741)

During the reporting period, the following Group Homes/Facilities were reported as being in satisfactory condition:

- **Commissioners Bigby and Hill visited Penny Lane #7, Page 32, #3, on May 24, 2013. They indicated that two youth were absent without leave (AWOL) within the past 30 days.**
- **Commissioners Bigby and Hill visited Penny Lane #6, Page 32, #2, on May 28, 2013. They indicated that two youth were AWOL within the past 30 days.**
- **Commissioners Bigby and Hill visited Bourne Inc., Page 2, #2, on June 7, 2013.**
- **Commissioners Bigby and Hill visited Garces Residential, Page 19, #2, on June 11, 2013.**
- **Chairperson Montaña and Commissioner Andrews visited the Aviva Center, Hamburger Home, Page 1, #2, on June 10, 2013.**
- **Vice Chairperson Bacio visited Eggleston Youth Center, Page 14, #4, on June 11, 2013.**
- **Chairperson Montaña and Commissioner Andrews visited the Children’s Home of Southern California, Page 8, #3, on June 11, 2013.**

IV. MISCELLANEOUS

Matters Not Posted

9. Matters not on the posted agenda, to be discussed and (if requested) referred to staff or placed on the agenda for action at a future meeting, or matters requiring immediate action because of an emergency situation or where the need to take action came to the attention of the Committee subsequent to the posting of the agenda. (13-2742)

There were no matters presented for a future agenda.

Public Comment

10. Opportunity for members of the public to address the Commission on items of interest that are within the jurisdiction of the Commission. (13-2743)

There were no members of the public present to address the Commission.

Adjournment

11. Adjournment for the meeting of June 12, 2013. (13-2744)

There being no further business, Chairperson Montaña adjourned the meeting of June 12, 2013 at 11:25 a.m.